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Admiral Searles
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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

The US 1st Marine Division has expanded the Inchon beachhead, capturing Kimpo airfield to the northeast and approaching within two miles of the main rail line running south from Seoul to Suwon. Marine fighter aircraft have landed at Kimpo, the best airfield in southern Korea, and the engineers state the field is in condition to handle any type of aircraft. In the southeastern beachhead enemy resistance continues, and there is no indication yet of a general break-up in enemy resistance or a withdrawal to the north.

Ground

Inchon Sector. The US 1st Marine Division has secured Kimpo airfield against light opposition by elements of the North Korean 18th Division. Enemy resistance is stiffening on the flanks of the Marine beachhead, but the US 7th Division is now landing at Inchon to reinforce the UN position.

Southeastern Sector. Although UN forces made gains on some parts of the front, particularly in the north and in the US 2nd Division sector along the Naktong River, enemy resistance remained stiff west of Masan and north of Taegu. The US 25th Division repulsed several company size attacks west of Masan and met stiff resistance in attempting to restore positions lost in previous action. The US 2nd Division met stubborn enemy resistance west of Yongsan, but elements of the Division pushed toward the Naktong River below Hyonpung and captured numerous headquarters personnel of the enemy 17th Regiment, 2nd Division. Enemy resistance was also stiff in the US 1st Cavalry Division sector west and north of Taegu, and there was little change in the front lines. Enemy resistance was generally light along the northern section of the perimeter and ROK units made gains of up to 5,000 yards.

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Navy

Marine units in the Inchon area have now advanced inland to the extreme limits of naval gunfire, but UN ships off Inchon continue to support the flanks of the beachhead. Carrier-based aircraft are providing close support for advanced ground elements. UN naval units continued to bombard the enemy in Pohang.

Air

Bad weather continued to hamper air operations, but close ground support was provided UN troops around the entire southeastern perimeter. Medium bombers were diverted to attack enemy troops concentrations west of Waegwan.

II. General Situation

North Korean radio broadcasts have ignored the new UN landing at Inchon except for the initial comment that on 15 September naval shore batteries of the People's Armed Forces repulsed one enemy destroyer off Inchon.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Muccio stressed the urgency of early steps to rebuild schools in recaptured South Korean territory. Both sides have used the buildings for military purposes and many schools have been destroyed. Muccio points out that reestablishing the school system will be necessary to develop a democratic society, to raise the morale of the general populace, and to prevent the growth of anti-US feeling after the elation of the return home wears off.

R. H. HILLENKOETTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central
Intelligence

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